

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for providing independent message notification to a message recipient at the request of the sender, comprising the steps of:
 - receiving in a communications network the message from the sender;
 - determining whether the sender requested that the message recipient receive independent notification of the message; and if so, then
 - establishing an identifier for the recipient by retrieving said identifier from said message; and
 - launching an independent notification to the message recipient identified by the identifier.
2. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the independent notification includes a telephone call to the recipient.
3. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein the telephone call is routed to one of a telephone set, a pager and facsimile machine associated with the message recipient.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the message launched by the sender comprises an e-mail message.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 4 wherein the network determines whether the sender requested independent notification by examining a recipient notification header in the e-mail message that will have a predetermined designation when the sender has requested independent notification.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) A method for providing voice notification to a message recipient at the request of the sender to alert the recipient of an incoming message, comprising the steps of:

receiving in a communications network the message from the sender;

determining whether the sender requested that the message recipient receive voice notification of the message; and if so, then

establishing an identifier for the recipient by retrieving a telephone number from said message; and

launching a voice telephone call to said telephone number the message recipient identified by the identifier.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8 wherein the message launched by the sender comprises an e-mail message.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9 wherein the network determines whether the sender requested voice notification by examining a recipient notification header in the e-mail message that will have a predetermined designation when the sender has requested voice notification.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (New) The method according to claim 1 wherein the message launched by the sender comprises an e-mail message and said identifier is a telephone number.

16. (New) The method according to claim 15 wherein said identifier comprises a plurality of telephone numbers.

17. (New) The method according to claim 8 wherein said step of establishing an identifier comprises retrieving a plurality of telephone numbers from said message.